



Improving Education for all Texas Students

As the father of two daughters educated in public schools, Senator John Cornyn understands the necessity of helping all children achieve their potential. He believes every child deserves the best start in life, and that means access to a first-class education system. Cornyn knows that good schools strengthen our society by giving young Texans a strong foundation to help them learn and succeed as citizens and individuals.

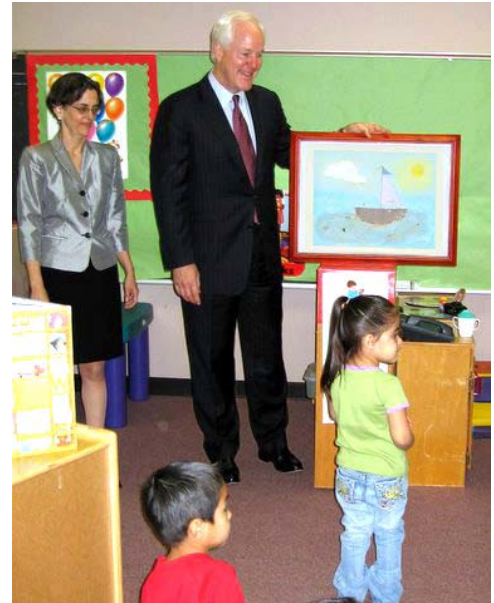
Senator Cornyn understands that accountability and results in education must be our aim, but that bureaucracy and red tape keep us from reaching it. That is why his efforts in the Senate are focused on giving states and local school districts the freedom to design innovative, educational programs that fit the needs of individual school districts and that prepare our children to succeed in a global economy.

Senator Cornyn is working hard in the 110th Congress to support the education of Texas' future.

- ✓ Cosponsoring the **Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success (A-PLUS) Act**, landmark legislation reforming the No Child Left Behind Act. A-PLUS takes federal bureaucrats out of local education decision-making and provides states with the flexibility to improve student achievement.
 - Reduces the federal burden placed on states by allowing them to enter five-year performance agreements to receive federal funds without burdensome strings attached.
 - Limits the funding for administrative costs putting more dollars directly in the classroom.
 - Retains high accountability standards, but allows states to use innovative and individual accountability programs.
 - Makes states accountable to parents and taxpayers for student achievement by requiring states to submit annual progress reports.



- ✓ Cosponsoring legislation that offers rural schools and libraries in Texas discounted telecommunications services to bridge the technological gap.
- ✓ Working to secure increased funding for:
 - **Impact Aid** to assist school districts in addressing the needs of military children.
 - **Teacher Incentive Funds** for schools that reward effective teachers.
 - **Physical Education Program** grants for schools and organizations to improve physical education programs for K-12 students.
 - **Reach Out and Read Program** promoting early literacy through book distributions and reading programs at local health clinics.



Sen. Cornyn visits with students at Lorenzo de Zavala Elementary School in Dallas.

During the past two sessions of Congress, Senator Cornyn established a strong record on education issues.

- ✓ Cosponsored the **Raising Achievement through Improving Supplemental Education Act (RAISE)** to help school districts better implement tutoring programs and school choice, and to make parents aware of services available to students in failing schools.
- ✓ Supported creation of the **Academic Competitiveness Grants** and **SMART Grants** that provide financial aid to college students studying math, science, or foreign languages critical to national security.



Sen. Cornyn congratulates Ms. Dana Boyd, the 2007 Texas Elementary School Teacher of the Year

- ✓ Supported legislation **allowing teachers to deduct up to \$250 from their federal income tax** for out-of-pocket costs for school supplies for the classroom.
- ✓ Cosponsored the **College 529 Invest Act** to enhance the tuition savings programs known as 529 plans -- college savings plans that help families pre-pay and save for future college costs.

- ✓ Helped Texas K-12 schools rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by securing \$250 million to recoup the costs of educating students from Louisiana and \$3 million to repair Lamar University.
- ✓ Sponsored legislation to extend the \$4,000 above-the-line deduction for taxpayers who pay college tuition.
- ✓ Cosponsored reauthorization of the **Education Flexibility Partnership Act** to allow Texas to waive requirements for federal education funding in exchange for increased education results and better accountability.



Sen. Cornyn watches as Austin High School students conduct a science experiment.

- ✓ Supported the **College Cost Reduction and Access Act** that by 2011 will raise the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$6,300 and reduce interest rates on certain federal student loans from 6.8% to 3.4%.
- ✓ Cosponsored the **Graduation Really Achieves Dreams (GRAD) Act** to improve high school graduation and college attendance and completion rates for at-risk students; increase family and community involvement; and provide scholarships and assistance in applying for financial aid.
- ✓ Supported Texas groups applying for the **Gaining Early Awareness and**

Helped secure **\$224 million** for **90 Texas schools & organizations through TRIO programs** to increase the number of high school students attending college.

Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) to increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter higher education.

- ✓ Cosponsored the **Next Generation Hispanic Serving Institutions Act** to reauthorize the Hispanic Serving Institutions program and improve options for graduate and postgraduate study by making it easier for students to transfer from two- to four-year colleges.
- ✓ Supported the **Physical Education Grant Program (PEP)** that provides funding to dozens of Texas schools and organizations to improve physical education and health programs for K-12 students.

Sign up to receive periodic updates from Senator John Cornyn at <http://cornyn.senate.gov>